



*Your*  
CATHOLIC  
WEDDING



Dear Couples Preparing for Married Love,

Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming wedding! We are so excited to celebrate this special and joyous moment with you in your life.

God's gift of married love for us, His children, initiates and reinforces an astonishing life-long and selfless commitment. As such, through the Sacrament of Matrimony, our God graciously forms a sacred partnership of love and life within us.

As you begin this journey together, cherish your wedding day and celebrate it as the first day of your married love where God unites the two as one.

St. Augustine gifted us with four goods of marriage that frame how we practice married life: the good of the couple, the good of children, permanence, and faithfulness.

- Good of the Couple means loving each other willingly and cheerfully. It comes before other goods and is rooted in God's selfless love for us. God's gift of married love is not controlling, manipulative, stifling, conditional, or dominating.
- Good of Children means joyfully cooperating with God's Will for children and to accept this as blessed fruit of married love. Children help couples continue to grow closer to one another every day in ordinary and extraordinary ways.
- Permanence means that our words and actions reflect our undying commitment to each other and that couples persistently live in such a way to help each other get to heaven so that we all may be one with God forever.
- Faithfulness means loving one another unconditionally and without restrictions just as Jesus loved and gave Himself for us and for our salvation.

This booklet will assist you with the preparation process. Please let us know how else we may help make your experience meaningful and memorable.

St. Therese, the Little Flower, pray for us!

Praying for you as you pray for me,

*Fr. Jason Kahle*

Pastor

# Choosing Your Wedding Date Preparing for Marriage

## *Setting the Wedding Date*

There are many factors that go into choosing your wedding date. The Diocese of Toledo requires at least six months preparation time for marriage. Normally, weddings are not celebrated during the penitential and sober Lenten season (the six weeks before Easter). Weekend wedding times are set and customarily a rehearsal takes place the night before the wedding.

<u>Wedding Start Time</u>	<u>Arrival/Departure</u>	<u>Rehearsal Start Time</u>
Friday 5:00 pm	3:00 pm / 7:00 pm	Thursday 5:30 pm
Saturday 1:30 pm	11:30 pm / 3:30 pm	Friday 5:30 pm

*TIP: Check out the parish calendar at [www.littleflowertoledo.org](http://www.littleflowertoledo.org). As soon as you are ready to ask about specific dates, please contact the Parish Center 419.537.6655.*

The parish has prepared a helpful one-page Wedding Contract that outlines clearly everything you receive in celebrating your wedding here. This is available in the Parish Office and to be completed and returned with the deposit payment in order to secure the wedding date you want.

*TIP: Reserve the church first before signing any other wedding related contracts.*

## *Meeting with your Priest or Deacon*

When you contact the Parish Center to set wedding day, a member of our parish leadership team will ask a few questions so to gather pertinent information. When both people are Catholic, they will be connected with the priest and pastor since a Wedding Mass will be celebrated. When one person is Catholic and the other person hails from a different Christian tradition, they will be connected with a deacon since Mass will not be a part of their Wedding Ceremony.

*TIP: Contact the Parish Center as soon as possible and make arrangements to meet with the priest or deacon so that your preferred wedding date can be confirmed.*

## *The Experience*

God has made you to do remarkable things together as a married couple! We are eager to help you prepare for an experience of married love that is healthy, happy and holy!

### *Step 1*

Meet right away with the priest or deacon. During your initial meeting, the priest or deacon will make sure that everything is in right order for the Sacrament of Marriage to be celebrated.

### *Step 2*

After your initial meeting with the priest or deacon, you will complete a marriage preparation “inventory”. This is not a test, but rather a series of questions that are designed to facilitate meaningful conversation about habits, expectations and values. This inventory provides important insights into relationship strengths and highlights aspects to improve over time. You will meet with the priest or deacon a series of times to discuss it.

### *Step 3*

The Diocese of Toledo has created an excellent marriage formation opportunity. Designed especially to present the relevance and truthfulness of the Church’s teachings on married love and family life, these two-day workshops are offered throughout the area. Some workshops are conveniently hosted on Saturday and Sunday of the same weekend, while others are scheduled over two consecutive Saturdays.

To register for a two-day marriage formation workshop and for more information about the experience, visit [LiveDivineLove.com](http://LiveDivineLove.com).

### *Step 4*

When you begin to start a family, you may have difficulties in trying to conceive. Natural Family Planning (NFP) is not only effective for delaying pregnancy organically, it is also high effective in overcoming obstacles that compromise your ability to become parents. More information and classes available in NFP can found on the Diocese of Toledo website. NFP classes also can be completed on-line at <http://register.ccli.org/virtual>.



“...Scripture readings, prayers, vows and blessings that will help make your wedding special to you.”

## Planning Your Wedding Day at Church

### *The Ceremony*

The priest or deacon will help you plan your wedding. Because you are celebrating your marriage in the Catholic Church, we want to make certain that your wedding ceremony is in keeping with the venerable traditions and that secular inventions, however popular, do not trivialize this most sacred moment and encounter with the Living God. You will be encouraged to select readings from the Bible for use during your ceremony and given opportunities to personalize the celebration in other ways.

*SPECIAL NOTE: Nothing may be added to the Church's liturgy without the expressed approval of the priest or deacon, including popular secular practices like the lighting of a "unity candle" and sand pouring. We do encourage devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the entire communion of saints by means of calling upon the holy ones to help your married love and future family draw ever closer to Jesus.*

### *The Music*

The Director of Music will meet with you to discuss and plan the music. Soloists and other musicians are welcome, though to be discussed in advance with the Director of Music. We are committed to the highest quality of sacred music that will inspire all present to experience the beauty, goodness and truth of God in the celebration of the wedding ceremony.

### *The Wedding Party*

Only two witnesses are required for your wedding even though most wedding parties are larger. As a practical matter, wedding parties up to 8 people, including the bride and groom, fit nicely in our sanctuary. A wedding party larger than this makes things unduly crowded and poses additional challenges for photography.

### *Church and Facility Usage*

Your wedding the most important event in your life so far and certain to be beautifully, With our active and growing parish, normally there are multiple events taking place every weekend throughout the year on top of our four weekend Masses (Saturday 4:30 pm / Sunday 8:30 am, 11:00 am & 5:30 pm) and Confessions on Saturday at 3:45pm. Please plan carefully so that everyone can enjoy the beautiful church and facilities in exactly the way they desire.

### *Bridal Room*

A comfortable and private room is available for use by the bride and her party. Unfortunately we are not able to permit anything to be left overnight from the rehearsal. We recommend that all valuables be kept elsewhere at all times. We are not responsible for items lost or stolen.

There is no dedicated room for the groomsmen to ready themselves before the wedding ceremony.

### *Photo & Video*

We are happy to encourage special photography and

videography before, during and after your wedding ceremony to help you preserve the splendor of the day. We expect all photographers and videographers to respect our Catholic Tradition and sacred space within which they are privileged to work by:

- Maintaining the highest professional manners that never distract from the worship of God
- Adhering cooperatively to the schedule
- Freely using the entire outdoor campus
- Never entering into the sanctuary (“platform altar area”) during the actual ceremony
- Positioning themselves in the back or side aisles around the perimeter of the church throughout the ceremony
- Using flash and extra lighting anywhere on the campus and in church before and after the wedding but at no time during the ceremony

*SPECIAL NOTE: Pictures may be taken from the main floor in front of the sanctuary of the bridesmaids and brides as they are walking from the church entrance down the main aisle*

### *Flowers and Decorations*

How excited we are to offer you well-maintained grounds and a beautifully decorated church in colors that always are appropriate for the liturgical season! Many dedicated and faithful parish members make this possible for all of us to enjoy.

Although you may add flowers to our design features, you are not permitted to move or remove anything we already have in place. Nothing ever may be placed atop the altar.

Pew decorations are allowed, but must be attached with elastic or clips so to prevent the pews from marring and disfigurement.

### *Local Customs*

Please incorporate into your wedding plans the following local customs. All are time-tested to contribute to a sacred, beautiful, and safe wedding day for you and your guests.

### *Please Do...*

- Take the initiative to schedule your appointments with your presider
- Dress appropriately and act respectfully in the sacred space of the church
- Be on time, but not too early according to your Building Use Times

- Only bring bottled water onto the church building and grounds
- Use only bells or bubbles to greet the couple outside church after the wedding
- Assign people to be in charge of cleaning up after your wedding party

### *Please No...*

- food, smoking, alcohol or other intoxicants on church property
- aisle runners
- flower petals in the aisle
- reception line in church after the wedding
- ushering the guests out after the wedding

### *Please Ask...*

- About inviting other clergy you personally know to participate

## Your Rehearsal Day

### *Setting Your Rehearsal Time*

A rehearsal is not only traditional but very helpful. Typically, the rehearsal will last about one hour and is scheduled for the evening before your wedding, but other arrangements can be made. Your presider will confirm your rehearsal time with you.

### *Who Should Be Invited?*

We recommend that all those who will have any part in the wedding Mass or ceremony be invited so that they can rehearse their part. You certainly can invite any other family or friends as you wish.



## *What Do We Do?*

We begin with prayer and introductions. Next, we review the wedding process and staging. Your presider will lead everyone in the “walk through” and answer any questions that come up. We do not rehearse the music at this time; music rehearsals with soloists and musicians will be scheduled separately by the Music Director.

## *Local Customs*

### *Please Do...*

- Give good directions to everyone coming; it seems we're hard to find for some
- Be on time
- Have a written bridal party plan: who will be paired with whom and in what order

## Your Wedding Day

### *Building Use Times*

By this time, you have completed your preparation and rehearsal, and your big day is here! You have your Building Use Times as detailed in your Wedding Contract, and you have discussed all of this with your presider. Please be prompt, but not too early so that others may have their time too.

### *Flowers and Decorations*

Flowers and decorations are to arrive and be placed within your Building Use Times. No early florist deliveries are allowed, and if early deliveries occur they are at your own risk. The building is open continuously, but is not supervised continuously.

### *Photo & Video*

Pictures before the wedding are encouraged if there is sufficient time. Please see our [Photo & Video Policy](#) for Weddings for full details.

### *Clean Up Policy*

Our Building Use Fee does not cover any labor to clean up after you. Our policy is “leave it like you found it”. All flowers, decorations, packaging, programs, etc. that you bring in with you should be put in a trash can here or taken with you.

We recommend that you assign one guy and one gal to assist you in making a tour of the facilities and pick up and take care of anything left behind. A couple in the wedding party or two friends who are attending are ideal candidates.

## *Local Customs*

Please see our list of local customs under Planning Your Wedding Day at Church. Following these customs will ensure a happy, safe, and holy wedding day for you and your guests.

## Church Etiquette

### *Invitation to Clergy*

If you would like to invite your presider to your rehearsal dinner or wedding reception, please do so as early as possible and it is always in good taste to send them a formal invitation. You can mail invitations to all clergy in care of Little Flower Church at 5522 Dorr Street, Toledo, Ohio 43615.

Should your presider's schedule allow them to attend, they are always willing to provide a blessing before the meal, or a prayer of some kind. Please let them know if you would like them to do this, they will not assume so unless asked.

**“Your presider will lead everyone in the “walk through” and answer any questions that come up.”**

### *Personal Conduct in a Sacred Space*

Weddings are always a happy time of getting together and getting reacquainted. It is also a sacred time, where we put ourselves in the presence of God and ask Him for His blessing. The Church understands both sides of our wedding experience and has designated spaces where each should take place.

The outside grounds, our vestibules just inside the doors, and our Commons gathering space are all appropriate areas of the Church where we can meet and greet our family and friends.

Once inside the sanctuary, the body of the Church itself, we should quiet ourselves and realize we are literally in God's house. Particularly during your rehearsal, some talking is expected in Church, but in general an attitude of reflection and prayer is most appropriate here.



“We are all here to be of service to you and we will do all that we can to ensure your wedding day is all you hoped it to be.”

## Paperwork & Fees

### *Your Wedding Contract*

To confirm your wedding date on our parish calendar, you will be asked to sign our Wedding Contract. This contract will detail the date and time of your wedding, the fees that are due, your specific Building Use Times, and other important details.

### *Building Use and Deposit Fees*

Everyone who asks to be married here is asked to pay a Building Use Fee to help us offset the expenses of maintaining our building and grounds. Please refer to your Wedding Contract for the exact amount and when it is due.

As Catholics, we all have a right to the Sacraments and money is never the object. If any of our fees cause a financial hardship, please speak with your presider about having them reduced or waived.

### *Professional Musicians Fees*

Beautiful music and song serve to enhance any wedding, and

we are blessed here at Little Flower to have very talented musicians and soloists. During your meeting with our Music Director, you will learn your options for music and song and what the professional fees are for each musician or soloist. For budget purposes please allow between \$200 and \$500 or more depending on your choices. These Professional Musician Fees are paid directly to the professional at the time of the wedding and are in addition to the Building Use Fee.

Although this is how our musicians and soloists earn their living, they see their work as a ministry and are willing to offer their talents to you if a financial hardship exists. Please speak with the Music Director if this is necessary.

## Required Documents

An authentic copy of your baptismal certificate is required for both Catholics and other baptized Christians. The Catholic should personally contact their parish of baptism and request a recent copy of their baptism certificate, including “notations”,

within six months of the wedding date. This copy should be mailed directly to Little Flower Church. The baptized Christian should provide a copy of the baptismal certificate or a letter from the church where the baptism took place showing the place, date, and presider.

Your marriage license from the State of Ohio is valid for sixty days. Please contact the Lucas County Courthouse to secure your license within sixty days of the wedding date. You can drop your marriage license off at the parish office the week before the wedding.

In this booklet, we've given you some general policies and guidelines that will help you plan for and enjoy your wedding day. If you have any questions at all, do not hesitate to contact your presider or the parish office immediately.

We are all here to be of service to you and we will do all that we can to ensure your wedding day is all you hoped it to be.

## Old Testament Readings

### *1/OT: A reading from the Book of Genesis (1:26-28, 31a)*

Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

### *2/OT: A reading from the Book of Genesis (2:18-24)*

The Lord God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." So the Lord God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man. So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

### *3/OT: A reading from the Book of Tobit (8:4b-8)*

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife, "Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance." Sarah got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. They began with these words: "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers; praised be your name forever and ever. Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever. You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve to be his help and support; and from these two the human race descended. You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a partner like himself.' Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine not because of lust, but for a noble purpose. Call down your mercy on me and on her, and allow us to live together to a happy old age." They said together, "Amen, amen."

### *4/OT: A reading from the Book of Proverbs (31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31)*

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

### *5/OT: A reading from the Song of Songs (2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a)*

Hark! my lover—here he comes springing across the mountains, leaping across the hills. My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Here he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattices. My lover speaks; he says to me, "Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come! "O my dove in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff, Let me see you, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and you are lovely." My lover belongs to me and I to him. He says to me: "Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; For stern as death is love, relentless as the nether world is devotion; its flames are a blazing fire. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away."

### *6/OT: A reading from the Book of Sirach (26:1-4, 13-16)*

Blessed the husband of a good wife, twice-lengthened are his days; A worthy wife brings joy to her husband, peaceful and full is his life. A good wife is a generous gift bestowed upon him who fears the Lord; Be he rich or poor, his heart is content, and a smile is ever on his face. A gracious wife delights her husband, her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones; A gift from the Lord is her governed speech, and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth. Choicest of blessings is a modest wife, priceless her chaste soul. A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;



indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul. Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

*7/OT: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah (31:31-32a, 33-34a)*

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers: the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the Lord. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.

## New Testament Readings

*1/NT: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (8:31b-35, 37-39)*

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*2/NT: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (12:1-2, 9-13)*

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

*3/NT: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13)*

Brothers and sisters: We ought to put up with the failings of

the weak and not to please ourselves; let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up. For Christ did not please himself. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, or the glory of God. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*4/NT: A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (6:13c-15a, 17-20)*

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, And the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

*5/NT: A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (12:31-13:8a)*

Brothers and sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

*6/NT: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians (5:2a, 25-32)*

Brothers and sisters: Live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the Church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the Church, because we are members of his Body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and his

mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

*7/NT: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians (4:4-9)*

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

*8/NT: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians (3:12-17)*

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one Body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him

*9/NT: A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (13:1-4a, 5-6b)*

Brothers and sisters: Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body. Let marriage be honored among all and the marriage bed be kept undefiled. Let your life be free from love of money but be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you. Thus we may say with confidence: The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid.

*10/NT: A reading from the First Letter of Saint John (3:18-24)*

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask,

because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit that he gave us.

*11/NT A reading from the First Letter of Saint John (4:7-12)*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

*12/NT A reading from the Book of Revelation (19:1, 5-9a)*

I, John, heard what sounded like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying: "Alleluia! Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God." A voice coming from the throne said: "Praise our God, all you his servants, and you who revere him, small and great." Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder, as they said: "Alleluia! The Lord has established his reign, our God, the almighty. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory. For the wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready. She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment." (The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.) Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

## Gospel Readings

*1/G: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12a)*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

*2/G: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:13-16)*

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, here it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

*3/G: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (7:21, 24-25)*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock."

*4/G: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (19:3-6)*

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?" He said in reply, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, man must not separate."

*5/G: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (22:35-40)*

One of the Pharisees, a scholar of the law, tested Jesus by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

*6/G: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (10:6-9)*

Jesus said: "From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate."

*7/G: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (2:1-11)*

There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from although the servants who had drawn the water knew, the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

*8/G: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (15:9-12)*

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."

*9/G: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (15:12-16)*

Jesus said to his disciples: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you."

*10/G: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (017:20-23)*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: "Holy Father, I pray not only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me."



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